

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for creating a simulation comprising the steps of:

monitoring communication between an end device and a real device during a communication sequence, said communication comprising a plurality of line-commands from said end device that are directed to said real device, and a plurality of outputs from said real device, each of said plurality of outputs generated in response to one of said plurality of line-commands;

capturing said communication between said end device and said real device; and

generating a simulation application based on said communication associated with said communication sequence, said simulation application able to present an identical output from said real device that corresponds to a particular line-command from said plurality of line-commands.

2. The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

summarizing said plurality of line commands in a summary list, said summary list comprising each of said plurality of line-commands as inputted into said real device along with a corresponding description.

3. The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

grouping said plurality of line-commands into a series of steps, each of said series of steps comprising at least one line-command from said plurality of line-commands.

4. The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

editing of said plurality of line-commands, said plurality of line-commands reflecting and including edited line-commands.

5. The method as described in Claim 4, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

introducing new line-commands into corresponding steps from said series of steps.

6. The method as described in Claim 5, wherein said method comprises the further steps of:

providing step text for each of said series of steps, said step text including a short description associated with a corresponding step from said series of steps; and

providing step detail for each of said series of steps, said step detail including detailed instructions and information associated with a corresponding step from said series of steps.

7. The method as described in Claim 6, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

re-running said communication sequence, such that said plurality of line-commands are inputted into said real device, said plurality of line-commands including edited line-commands and said new line-commands.

8. The method as described in Claim 7, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

checking for invalid line-commands.

9. The method as described in Claim 8, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

determining all permutations for each of said series of steps, wherein each permutation comprises a unique combination and order of line-commands and their corresponding outputs from said real device.

10. The method as described in Claim 9, wherein said simulation application is an exercise that simulates a real-life interaction with said real device, said simulation application presenting real-life outputs to command-line inputs into said real device in a simulated environment, said real-life outputs corresponding to said plurality of outputs as determined by said method, said real-life outputs

presented along with said step text and said step detail in an instructional exercise format.

11. The method as described in Claim 9, wherein said method is performed at a server coupled to said end device and said real device.

12. A method for creating a simulation comprising the steps of:

monitoring communication between an end device and a real device during a communication sequence, said communication sequence relating to a real-life interaction with said real device, said communication comprising a plurality of inputs from said end device that is directed to said real device, and a plurality of outputs from said real device to said plurality of inputs, each of said plurality of outputs generated in response to one of said plurality of inputs;

capturing said communication between said end device and said real device;

determining all permutations for said communication sequence, forming a plurality of permutations for said communication sequence, each of said plurality of permutation comprising a unique combination and order of inputs and their corresponding outputs; and

generating a simulation application based on said communication associated with said communication sequence,

said simulation application able to present an identical output to a particular input corresponding to a particular permutation for said communication sequence.

13. The method as described in Claim 12, wherein said method comprises the further steps of:

checking for invalid inputs in said plurality of inputs;
and

providing notification at said end device of said invalid inputs.

14. The method as described in Claim 12, wherein said method comprises the further steps of:

flagging predetermined items of interest; and
providing notification at said end device of said predetermined items of interest.

15. The method as described in Claim 12, wherein said method comprises the further steps of:

querying said real device for the full syntax of each input in said plurality of inputs; and
replacing each input with their corresponding full syntax.

16. The method as described in Claim 12, wherein said method is performed at a server coupled to said end device and said real device.

17. The method as described in Claim 12, wherein said real device is any Internet network device.

18. The method as described in Claim 12, wherein said real device is an Internet content provider.

19. The method as described in Claim 12, wherein said communication is in the form of a command-line interface with line-commands, each of said plurality of inputs corresponding to one of a plurality of line-commands.

20. The method as described in Claim 19, wherein said method comprises the further steps of:

grouping said plurality of line-commands into a series of steps, each of said series of steps comprising at least one line-command from said plurality of line-commands;

editing of said plurality of line-commands, said plurality of line-commands reflecting and including edited line-commands;

introducing new line-commands into corresponding steps from said series of steps;

providing step text for each of said series of steps, said step text including a short description associated with a corresponding step from said series of steps;

providing step detail for each of said series of steps, said step detail including detailed instructions and

information associated with a corresponding step from said series of steps;

re-running said communication sequence, such that said plurality of line-commands are inputted into said real device, said plurality of line-commands including edited line-commands and said new line-commands;

checking for invalid line-commands; and

automatically determining all permutations for each of said series of steps, wherein each permutation comprises a unique combination and order of line-commands and their corresponding outputs from said real device.

21. The method as described in Claim 20, wherein said simulation application is a computer based exercise that simulates said real-life interaction with said real device, said simulation application presenting real-life outputs to command-line inputs into said real device in a simulated environment, said real-life outputs as determined by said method, said real-life outputs presented along with said step text and said step detail in an instructional exercise format.

22. A computer system comprising a processor, a memory unit, and a display screen wherein said memory contains instructions that when executed implement a method of creating a simulation comprising the steps of:

monitoring communication between an end device and a real device during a communication sequence, said communication comprising a plurality of line-commands from said end device that are directed to said real device, and a plurality of outputs from said real device, each of said plurality of outputs generated in response to one of said plurality of line-commands;

capturing said communication between said end device and said real device; and

generating a simulation application based on said communication associated with said communication sequence, said simulation application able to present an identical output from said real device that corresponds to a particular line-command from said plurality of line-commands.

23. The computer system as described in Claim 22, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

summarizing said plurality of line commands in a summary list, said summary list comprising each of said plurality of line-commands as inputted into said real device along with a corresponding description.

24. The computer system as described in Claim 22, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

grouping said plurality of line-commands into a series of steps, each of said series of steps comprising at least one line-command from said plurality of line-commands.

25. The computer system as described in Claim 22,
wherein said method comprises the further step of:

editing of said plurality of line-commands, said
plurality of line-commands reflecting and including edited
line-commands.

26. The computer system as described in Claim 25,
wherein said method comprises the further step of:

introducing new line-commands into corresponding steps
from said series of steps.

27. The computer system as described in Claim 26,
wherein said method comprises the further steps of:

providing step text for each of said series of steps,
said step text including a short description associated with
a corresponding step from said series of steps; and

providing step detail for each of said series of steps,
said step detail including detailed instructions and
information associated with a corresponding step from said
series of steps.

28. The computer system as described in Claim 27,
wherein said method comprises the further step of:

re-running said communication sequence, such that said
plurality of line-commands are inputted into said real

device, said plurality of line-commands including edited line-commands and said new line-commands.

29. The computer system as described in Claim 28, wherein said method comprises the further step of:
checking for invalid line-commands.

30. The computer system as described in Claim 29, wherein said method comprises the further step of:
determining all permutations for each of said series of steps, wherein each permutation comprises a unique combination and order of line-commands and their corresponding outputs from said real device.

31. The computer system as described in Claim 30, wherein said simulation application is an exercise that simulates a real-life interaction with said real device, said simulation application presenting real-life outputs to command-line inputs into said real device in a simulated environment, said real-life outputs corresponding to said plurality of outputs as determined by said method, said real-life outputs presented along with said step text and said step detail in an instructional exercise format.

32. The computer system as described in Claim 30, wherein said method is performed at a server coupled to said end device and said real device.

33. A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for performing a method of creating a simulation, said method comprising the steps of:

monitoring communication between an end device and a real device during a communication sequence, said communication comprising a plurality of line-commands from said end device that are directed to said real device, and a plurality of outputs from said real device, each of said plurality of outputs generated in response to one of said plurality of line-commands;

capturing said communication between said end device and said real device; and

generating a simulation application based on said communication associated with said communication sequence, said simulation application able to present an identical output from said real device that corresponds to a particular line-command from said plurality of line-commands.

34. The computer-readable medium as described in Claim 33, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

summarizing said plurality of line commands in a summary list, said summary list comprising each of said plurality of line-commands as inputted into said real device along with a corresponding description.

35. The computer-readable medium as described in Claim 33, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

grouping said plurality of line-commands into a series of steps, each of said series of steps comprising at least one line-command from said plurality of line-commands.

36. The computer-readable medium as described in Claim 33, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

editing of said plurality of line-commands, said plurality of line-commands reflecting and including edited line-commands.

37. The computer-readable medium as described in Claim 36, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

introducing new line-commands into corresponding steps from said series of steps.

38. The computer-readable medium as described in Claim 37, wherein said method comprises the further steps of:

providing step text for each of said series of steps, said step text including a short description associated with a corresponding step from said series of steps; and

providing step detail for each of said series of steps, said step detail including detailed instructions and information associated with a corresponding step from said series of steps.

39. The computer-readable medium as described in Claim 38, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

automatically re-running said communication sequence, such that said plurality of line-commands are inputted into said real device, said plurality of line-commands including edited line-commands and said new line-commands.

40. The computer-readable medium as described in Claim 39, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

checking for invalid line-commands.

41. The computer-readable medium as described in Claim 40, wherein said method comprises the further step of:

determining all permutations for each of said series of steps, wherein each permutation comprises a unique combination and order of line-commands and their corresponding outputs from said real device.

42. The computer-readable medium as described in Claim 41, wherein said simulation application is an exercise that simulates a real-life interaction with said real device, said simulation application presenting real-life outputs to command-line inputs into said real device in a simulated environment, said real-life outputs corresponding to said plurality of outputs as determined by said method, said real-life outputs presented along with said step text and said step detail in an instructional exercise format.

43. The computer-readable medium as described in Claim 41, wherein said method is performed at a server coupled to said end device and said real device.

44. A simulation authoring mechanism for creating a simulation comprising:

means for monitoring communication between an end device and a real device during a communication sequence, said communication comprising a plurality of line-commands from said end device that are directed to said real device, and a plurality of outputs from said real device, each of said plurality of outputs generated in response to one of said plurality of line-commands;

means for capturing said communication between said end device and said real device; and

means for generating a simulation application based on said communication associated with said communication sequence, said simulation application able to present an identical output from said real device that corresponds to a particular line-command from said plurality of line-commands.

45. The simulation authoring mechanism as described in Claim 44, further comprises:

means for summarizing said plurality of line commands in a summary list, said summary list comprising each of said

plurality of line-commands as inputted into said real device along with a corresponding description.

46. The simulation authoring mechanism as described in Claim 44, further comprising:

means for grouping said plurality of line-commands into a series of steps, each of said series of steps comprising at least one line-command from said plurality of line-commands.

47. The simulation authoring mechanism as described in Claim 44, further comprising:

means for editing of said plurality of line-commands, said plurality of line-commands reflecting and including edited line-commands.

48. The simulation authoring mechanism as described in Claim 47, further comprising:

means for introducing new line-commands into corresponding steps from said series of steps.

49. The simulation authoring mechanism as described in Claim 48, further comprising:

means for providing step text for each of said series of steps, said step text including a short description associated with a corresponding step from said series of steps; and

means for providing step detail for each of said series of steps, said step detail including detailed instructions and information associated with a corresponding step from said series of steps.

50. The simulation authoring mechanism as described in Claim 49, further comprising:

means for re-running said communication sequence, such that said plurality of line-commands are inputted into said real device, said plurality of line-commands including edited line-commands and said new line-commands.

51. The simulation authoring mechanism as described in Claim 50, further comprising:

means for checking for invalid line-commands.

52. The simulation authoring mechanism as described in Claim 51, further comprising:

means for determining all permutations for each of said series of steps, wherein each permutation comprises a unique combination and order of line-commands and their corresponding outputs from said real device.

53. The simulation authoring mechanism as described in Claim 52, wherein said simulation application is an exercise that simulates a real-life interaction with said real device, said simulation application presenting real-life outputs to

command-line inputs into said real device in a simulated environment, said real-life outputs corresponding to said plurality of outputs as determined by said method, said real-life outputs presented along with said step text and said step detail in an instructional exercise format.

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